

309 Yoakum Pkwy #601

Alexandria, VA 22304

15 April 1985

Dear Mom and Dad,

Thank you for your recent letters. I stayed home this morning to finish up my term paper for communications theory class. It is due tomorrow night. This afternoon, at work, I have been making up the talk I must be prepared to give on my paper. After tomorrow night I will be done with classes until Fall.

I took a break from the term paper yesterday to run the DC Marathon (route enclosed). Vickie, Fred Kruger, and I all started off together. Vickie ran to the 15 mile marker and then returned to the start and added a few more miles to make 21 for the day. Fred also left the course at 15 miles. I continued on the course and had little trouble finishing in 3 1/2 hours. Running through the various neighborhoods was so interesting that I forgot about any discomfort. The day was sunny and mild so many people were outdoors cheering and clapping for the runners.

This Thursday is my birthday but we probably will stay home because Vickie has a quiz in her Cobol course on Friday evening. Perhaps the next week we will celebrate by going to Vincenzo's, a very authentic Italian restaurant on Connecticut Avenue. I finally have the disks I need to run Cobol on our computer. I will try to do so this evening. I found a cheap Cobol (\$29.95) which runs under the CP/M operating system. The normal operating system on my Chameleon is MS-DOS, but the computer contains a Z-80 chip which can run CP/M. So I had to buy the operating system

and that was \$150. Finally, I needed a program to translate the Cobol format (CP/M-80) to CP/M-86 and that was \$100. At least this is all deductible as an educational expense! If it works then I can also run the cheap versions of Fortran and Pascal which I would like to do.

We are trying to get the Navy to pay us to program a lap-size computer for use at sea. If they go along we will purchase a Grid System and I will enjoy playing with that in the office. We are very busy and have just hired another person who will start on Wednesday. Then there will be four of us.

We went to the Folger Theatre on Friday night and enjoyed "Hamlet". Next friday I am traveling to Fredericksburg to settle on a second rental house purchase with my partner, Roger Schirmer. As you know, we own one house in Stafford, VA. Roger located the new house near Colonial Beach not far from Dahlgren. Tenants are ready to move in as soon as we settle, so it appears to be a good deal. It certainly is for me because Roger does all the work necessary and doesn't charge me anything.

Next Saturday night we will drive down to the Sanchez' house between Dahlgren and Fredericksburg for dinner. The Wilson's will also be there and it should be fun as we haven't seen either couple for several months. Goodbye for now.

Love,

Jim & Vickie

D.C. MARATHON

START

FINISH

BY RICHARD FURNO—THE WASHINGTON POST

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The fifth D.C. Marathon is scheduled 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. tomorrow. It winds 26.2 miles through the city's eight wards. Route streets will be closed and motorists will be allowed to cross only when no runners are in the area. More than 1,000 runners are expected for the start at Madison Drive and Fourth Street NW.

